Character Qualification to Look for in American Political Candidates

A resolution of the Nebraska Association of Regular Baptist Churches

WHEREAS the Almighty God of ancient Israel declared, "He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God" (2 Samuel 23:2);

AND WHEREAS Moses, God's lawgiver, was advised to choose leaders who ware "able, such as fear God, men, of truth, (and) hating covetousness" (Exodus 18:21);

AND WHEREAS the first Supreme Court justice, the Honorable John Jay, declared in 1816, "Providence has given tour people the choice of our rulers, and it is the duty…of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christian leaders for their rulers;"

AND WHEREAS when the Apostle Paul stood before Governor Felix, he "reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come" (Acts 24:25), and the Apostle Peter wrote, "giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue,…knowledge, …temperance, … patience, … godliness, …brotherly kindness, and…charity (2nd Peter 1:5-8).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the messengers of the churches in fellowship with the Nebraska Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting for our Fall Conference at the First Baptist Church of Nebraska City, Nebraska, on October 13-14, 2008, for the blessing of God upon our dear nation for its welfare, do encourage and exhort the voting members o four churches to look for the following character qualifications in the candidates for government offices:

- VIRTUE which, in the fear of the LORD, manifests itself in wisdom and knowledge (Proverbs 9:10),
- VIRTUE which is committed to the historic American principles of our nation's founding father, who used the Holy Bible more than any other book to draft the Constitution of the United States;
- VIRTUE which is undergirded by Biblical principles that will influence and guide one's personal life and a nations' well-being for the better;
- VIRTUE which gives Biblical values to the decision which must be made about life issues such as the value of unborn innocent babies, marriage as God ordained it, and the care of the disabled or elderly;
- VIRTUE which gives moral courage to do what is just and right rather than to follow the philosophy of every man doing what is "right in is won eyes" (Judges 21:25) so as to be popular, have friends, or hold on to one's office;
- VIRTUE which develops practical wisdom and prudence in dealing with tough political issues and with every kind of adversity;
- VIRTUE which is show in self-control and self discipline that guard against overweening pride, moral lapses, financial recklessness, unjust criticism of one's opponents, and abusing the power granted to one as an officeholder.

Since the quality of one's virtue is discovered in one's day-to-day life and behavior, a Christian voter should be well-informed on the personal history and actions of each candidate. If there are no viable candidates for an office who are Christian, then one should prayerfully consider the above virtues and vote for candidate(s) who manifests themselves better.